AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (Canceled).

2. (Previously Presented) The platform according to claim 22, in which the resource locators are arranged to communicate signalling directly with each other by peer-to-peer signalling.

3. (Previously Presented) The platform according to claim 22, further comprising a resource broker and in which at least some communication between the resource locators is mediated by the resource broker.

4. (Previously Presented) The platform according to claim 3, in which the resource broker is located in one of the said subsystems.

5. (Previously Presented) The platform according to claim 3, in which the resource broker includes:

a data interface arranged to receive capability

data and interface data from respective resource locators, and

a registry arranged to store the said capability data and interface data.

6. (Currently Amended)   The platform according to claim 3, in which a resource locator in a subsystem is arranged initially to read capability data and interface data for another subsystem from the resource broker, and subsequently communicates further data directly with the other subsystem using the interface of the subsystem identified in the said interface data without further reference ~~communicating with~~ to said resource broker.

7. (Previously Presented) The platform according to claim 3, in which at least one of the subsystems is arranged to communicate directly with a selected other subsystem via a respective specific data interface and in which others of the subsystems are arranged to communicate with a selected other subsystem via an object bus.

8. (Previously Presented) The platform according to claim 7 in which the or each said subsystem arranged to communicate directly via a respective specific data interface is arranged, on initialisation of the said subsystem, to read data for the selected other subsystem from the resource broker, and in response to calls subsequent to the initialisation of the subsystem, communicates directly with the selected other subsystem without reference to the resource broker.

9. (Previously Presented) The platform according to claim 7, in which the said subsystems arranged to communicate via an object bus are arranged, in response to each new call, to read resource data from the resource broker.

10. (Currently Amended)   A communications system comprising:

a plurality of call processing subsystems, where each of the call processing

subsystems comprises a resource locator, a plurality of the resource locators being

arranged to communicate directly with each other;

a network interconnecting the plurality of call processing subsystems;

a resource broker connected to the network, the resource broker including:

a data interface arranged to receive capability data and

interface data from respective call processing subsystems, and

a registry arranged to store the said capability data and interface data;

wherein the resource locator of one of the plurality of call processing subsystems

initially reads the capability data and interface data for another one of the plurality of call

processing subsystems stored in the registry of the resource broker, and subsequently

communicates signaling messages further-data-directly with the another one of the

plurality of call processing subsystems without further reference to using-the-initially

read-interface-data-but-without-communicating-with-the resource broker.

1067294

11. (Previously Presented) The communications system according to claim 10, further comprising an object bus interconnecting at least some of the call processing subsystems.

12. (Previously Presented) The communications system according to claim 11, in which communication paths between others of the subsystems bypass the object bus.

13. (Currently Amended) A computing platform comprising a multiplicity of coupled computing subsystems, each of the said subsystems including respective data processing resources and a respective resource locator arranged to advertise the its identity of the respective resource locator and the loading of the respective resources by directly broadcasting broadcasted to others of the resource locators and to directly receive resource signalling from others of the resource locators that has been broadcasted by the others of the resource locators.

14. (Currently Amended) A method of operating a communications system, the system including a multiplicity of processing subsystems and a network interconnecting the multiplicity of subsystems, the method comprising:

a)   broadcasting communicating from a resource locator in a respective one of the multiplicity of subsystems to resource locators in others of the multiplicity of subsystems data indicating the identity of the said one subsystem and the availability of resources in the said one subsystem

5

b) repeating step (a) for each other of the multiplicity of subsystems:

c) when one of the multiplicity of subsystems, in the course of processing a call, requires resources not present locally in the said subsystem:

    i) identifying from the said data communicated to the resource locator of the said one subsystem another subsystem having the said resources;

    ii) accessing the said subsystem via the network;

wherein each resource-locator of a respective one of the subsystems is arranged to broadcast a request for resources not present locally in that respective one of the subsystems by communicating signalling messages directly with the resource-locators of said other sub-systems of said communications system.

15. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 14, in which, for each of the multiplicity of subsystems, step (a) is repeated regularly.

16. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 15, in which the period of repetition for step (a) is small compared to the mean duration of a call processed by the communications system.

1067294

17. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 14, in which, for at least one of the multiplicity of subsystems, step (a) is repeated in response to an event in the respective subsystem.

18. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 17, in which the said event is a change in resource availability in the subsystem exceeding a predetermined threshold.

19. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 14 in which the communication of resource data between subsystems is mediated by a resource broker.

20. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 19, in which data is communicated between at least some of the subsystems and the resource broker via an object bus.

21. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 20 in which data is communicated between others of the subsystems directly, bypassing the object bus.

22. (Currently Amended) A communications platform comprising:

a multiplicity of subsystems, each of the subsystems including respective service processing resources and a respective subsystem resource locator;

1067294

wherein collectively said subsystems provide a distributed processing

architecture which distributes the task of resource management and resource allocation

between said multiplicity of subsystems; and

wherein each subsystem resource locator includes:

means for communicating to each of the said other subsystem resource

locators data indicating the subsystem identity and data indicating the availability

of resources in the respective subsystem;

means for receiving identity data and resource availability data from other

subsystem resource locators; and

means to subsequently broadcast a request for resources from each of

said other subsystem resource locators by communicating signalling messages

directly with each of said other subsystem resource locators.

23. (Currently Amended)   A communications platform comprising:

a multiplicity of subsystems, each of the subsystems including respective service

processing resources and a respective subsystem resource locator;

wherein collectively said subsystems provide a distributed processing

architecture which distributes the task of resource management and resource allocation

between said multiplicity of subsystems; and

1067294

wherein each subsystem resource locator of one of said multiplicity of subsystems includes:

means for communicating to each of the other subsystem resource locators data indicating the subsystem identity and data indicating the availability of resources in the respective subsystem;

means for receiving identity data and resource availability data from other subsystem resource locators;

means to register and discover resources and interface details with a resource broker when said one of said multiplicity of subsystems is initialized; and

means to subsequently request resources directly from other subsystem resource locators by communicating signalling directly with said other resource locators <u>without further reference to</u> ~~and not by communicating with~~ said resource broker subsequent to said subsystem being initialized.

24. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 19, wherein the communication of the resource data mediated by the resource broker occurs at initialization of at least one of the subsystems, and the broadcast for the request for resources from one of the resource locators of a respective one of the subsystems to another one of the subsystems is provided by direct communication between the subsystems, subsequent to the mediated communication, without <u>further reference to</u>

~~communicating with~~ the resource broker.

25. (Currently Amended) The platform according to claim 3, wherein the communication of the resource data mediated by the resource broker occurs at initialization of at least one of the subsystems, and the broadcast for the request for resources from one of the resource locators of a respective one of the subsystems to another one of the subsystems is provided by direct communication between the subsystems, subsequent to the mediated communication, without <u>further reference to</u> ~~communicating with~~ the resource broker.

1067294